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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

1000 LIVES LOST WITH CRUISER

French Auxiliary Warship Destroyed in the Mediterranean Sea and Only 870 of 1800 Aboard Are Saved

Paris, Feb. 29.—More than 1,000 men are believed to have perished when the French auxiliary cruiser Provence, carrying 1,800, sank Saturday in the Mediterranean.

Official announcement by the ministry of marine today told of 296 landed at Malta and 400 others at the Greek island of Melos.

A later official statement said that 870 were saved, making the missing around 1,000.

Ten boats now at the scene are continuing the search for other survivors.

Paris, Feb. 29.—The ministry of marine announced today that the French auxiliary cruiser Provence had been sunk Saturday in the Mediterranean.

Two hundred and ninety-six men of her crew were landed at Malta.

The Provence dispatches did not state whether the disaster was due to a submarine, a mine or an accident, though it is known that submarines are operating in the Mediterranean, as the British steamer Farnet and a Swedish ship were recently torpedoed there.

The Provence is believed to be the patrol liner formerly in the trans-Atlantic service, but more recently on admiralty duty. That vessel was of 18,000 tons and 600 feet long.

There is also a battleship Provence and a 4,000-ton steamer Provence, but obviously from the description the sunken liner was neither of these.

The Provence probably was carrying troops either to or from Saloniki. Malta and Melos, the landing points, are six hundred miles apart. It is likely the vessel sank between Malta and the Greek west coast.

VILLISTAS MURDER ANOTHER AMERICAN

Washington, Feb. 29.—Grover C. Varn, an American, was murdered last night in his home 25 miles north of Durango, Mexico, by Villistas, according to state department advices today. No other details were given.

Department reports said labor conditions in Mexico City are "somewhat threatening," that soldiers are ready to prevent strikes, and that conditions are believed to be due to monetary troubles.

The general political situation was reported comparatively quiet, although some progress is being made against the Zapatistas.

ANOTHER MUNITION PLANT BUILDING BLOWN UP

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 29.—With an explosion audible for fifty miles, the New England Manufacturing company's trinitrotoluol building blew up early today. The warning rumble allowed 100 workers to escape, and only one, showered with flying bricks, was injured.

The property loss was placed at \$50,000.

The company, engaged in munition work for the allies, had been threatened recently and has had its plant under close guard.

GERMAN LOSS IN VERDUN CAMPAIGN MORE THAN 45,000

London, Feb. 29.—More than 45,000 Germans have been killed in the Verdun offensive, according to an Amsterdam dispatch today.

How terrible the butchery is was evidenced from the report that the remnants of eight German regiments reformed only a single regiment.

Eight thousand German corpses were reported found on a two-mile front alone. Endless trains of wounded are streaming into Metz, while the hospitals at Coblenz, Treves, Cologne and other cities are filled to overflowing.

The Amsterdam report said that the Douaumont fort had been bombarded for hours before it was wrecked. The French occupants held to their posts resolutely while the fort was disintegrating. Repeatedly they halted the Brandenburg men's desperate assaults and withdrew only when German dead lay in heaps in front of the position.

The French destroyed more than 40 German cannon grouped for a heavy assault opposite Bras.

KAISER WILHELM IS WITNESS AT BATTLE

Paris, Feb. 29.—Standing on a hill four miles north of Fort Douaumont, Kaiser Wilhelm watched for six hours the struggle there, according to German prisoners today.

Sheets of rain and snow whipped the crest, driven by a raw wind. Staff officers, fearful for the kaiser because of his recent illness, urged him not to expose himself.

But he held to his post. Protected by a heavy coat, he refused to heed their advice.

Intently he gazed through his field glasses until the men of Brandeburg had stormed the fort. Before his view lay a panorama of frightful execution. Whole battalions melted under the fire of the French guns before the Teuton howitzers silenced the Douaumont batteries.

In the village and on the plain outside the fort hand-to-hand combats now rage. They are over piles of dead. Shell craters are graves of brave men—and the weight of cadavers has crushed many wounded soldiers.

Foemen and defenders are mingled in death under a mantle of snow. The slaughter to the north of the "Pepper heights" equals that of Douaumont. The French command every foot of the approach, while an inferno of shrapnel and shells bursts over the plain.

Not even behind the parapets of dead could the Germans hope to advance with their infantry. They are, however, bringing up guns, planning to silence the French artillery.

The number of prisoners taken by the French is comparatively small, for the shelling is so terrible that surrounded German groups are cut to pieces before they can reach the French lines to surrender.

MORPHINE A BUSINESS BOOSTER

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Morphine alleged to have been served with mashed potatoes made Mike Adee's business so good that the police grew suspicious. That's why Mike faced a charge of violating the state poison law today.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA

STATE SENATE DEAD

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Following a brief illness, Dominick Beban, member of the state senate of the last legislature, died today at his home here. His condition had not been considered serious by relatives or friends.

ENVELOPMENT OF VERDUN AIM OF GERMAN ARMY

Teutons Shift Attack Against French Fortress From the East, Threatening the Allies With a Surrounding Movement, and a Decisive Battle for the Stronghold Is Commencing Along the Entire Western Front

London, Feb. 29.—Suddenly shifting their attack, the Germans are swinging their men against Verdun from the east, aiming thereby to squeeze out the Verdun defenders by a threat of envelopment.

The Berlin war office today announced the capture of villages to the southeast in the new drive and an advance along the whole front northeast and east of Verdun.

Seventeen thousand prisoners were taken.

Paris admitted the loss of Manheulles southeast of Verdun, but claimed German attacks elsewhere had been repelled, and that the French now have a ring about Douaumont.

Charges around Douaumont continue. Dead men still litter the pathway.

Berlin claimed capture of armored works northwest of Douaumont, in addition to taking Manheulles, Champion and part of a Badonviller trench in the new campaign.

Amsterdam reports today placed the German dead at 45,000. Estimates of the total dead, wounded and missing in the Verdun drive run to at least 160,000.

Such frightful losses, critics believe, caused the kaiser to order a cessation of massed assaults upon the Verdun forts for the new effort to take them by heavy attacks from the east.

London, Feb. 29.—A decisive battle for the Verdun fortress is about to begin.

Checked at "Pepper heights," the Germans are moving up heavy artillery to blast away the armored trenches on the heights that bar further advance from the north.

U. S. CITIZENS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TRAVELING ON THE SEA

Washington, Feb. 29.—American citizens are in little immediate danger from the Teuton submarine campaign against armed enemy merchant ships, starting tomorrow, officials here agreed today. Formulating of the American policy toward the new situation, however, awaits receipt of German evidence to support the Berlin claim that England had issued secret orders to attack submarines.

Assurances of Ambassador von Bernstorff that Germany will not make unwarned attacks against liners was presented at today's cabinet session.

But it was indicated that the administration will neither respond to the latest German word nor frame a new policy until the German orders come here.

Meantime, it is assured that the administration will find a way to keep Americans out of the danger zone. Without surrendering or abridging the American right to travel without harm, this government is not prepared to insist that citizens may travel on ships that have been ordered to act on the offensive.

The administration desires to recognize public and congressional sentiment, which opposes a break with the central powers, but at the same time is anxious to maintain every right accorded to a neutral under international law.

In these circumstances, the government is prepared to announce the

danger of traveling on offensively armed merchant ships, should the state department decide that the promised evidence proves Germany's contentions as to the character of armament.

But until this alleged proof arrives, the administration is not planning any further move with either the entente or the central allies, unless Americans are endangered or injured.

Secretary of State Lansing conferred with President Wilson at 10 o'clock over the latest Berlin communication.

Before entering the conference at the White House, Lansing was asked if the facts warranted the optimism of morning newspaper reports of the situation. He replied that these stories were unjustified and that he probably would issue a statement about it during the day.

Lansing was impatient with certain statements accredited to the state department indicating that the German negotiations had reached a satisfactory point.

"I have not commented nor given an opinion about the matter," he said in a formal statement. "Any statement of the department's views is unauthorized."

His statement was provoked by morning paper publication of what purported to be a paraphrase of the latest German memorandum.

The cabinet debated whether Americans could be warned from

VON BERNSTORFF IS REBUKED BY SEC'Y LANSING

Washington, Feb. 29.—Secretary of State Lansing today again directly rebuked Ambassador von Bernstorff for improper publicity work in the German-American diplomatic situation. In a formal statement he declared that morning paper reports of the contents of Germany's latest memorandum had not been made public by himself or by the state department, and that they had not expressed his view on the memorandum. Morning papers had printed what purported to be a paraphrase of the memorandum.

TREBIZOND IS DESERTED BY TURKS

Petrograd, Feb. 29.—The Turks are hastily evacuating Trebizond and neighboring cities before the Russian advance, according to Tiflis dispatches today.

The movement of one Russian force westward along the Black sea shore, through Rish, and another northwestward from Erzerum forced the evacuation.

Saturday's official statement said the Russians were within 50 miles of the city.

Trebizond is a seaport of Asiatic Turkey on the eastern part of the Black sea coast, 120 miles northwest of Erzerum. It is perched on a plateau-like height, with rocky slopes on two sides. Walls and a castle of the middle ages flank it. Several days ago it was reported that the Christian population, which lived outside the walls, had fled hurriedly. The drive for Trebizond followed the Russian capture of Erzerum.

MONDELL OF WYOMING CRITICIZES PRESIDENT

Washington, Feb. 29.—Despite the efforts of the administration to keep out of congress any discussion of the controversy with Germany over her armed enemy merchant vessel decree, Congressman Mondell of Wyoming bitterly criticized the president today, saying in part:

"President Wilson strikes a pose of mock heroism," he declared. "When did it become so sacred an American right to ride on an armed belligerent ship?"

WASHINGTON LUMBER MILLS INCREASE WAGES

Aberdeen, Wash., Feb. 29.—Several lumber mills today announced an increase of wages beginning tomorrow. It was also stated that four logging camps which have been shut down for many months will be started early in March. Five hundred men will be given employment in these camps.

ARMED BELLIGERENT SHIPS WITHOUT ABRIDGING AMERICAN RIGHTS, BUT REACHED NO CONCLUSION.

The state department had no knowledge of the reported seizure at Falmouth of the additional German evidence on its way to prove that England had issued orders to her merchant commanders to ram and sink submarines.

If this has been confiscated, the state department would accept a declaration from Ambassador Gerard that he has seen the evidence as a basis for assuming that Americans traveling on ships armed under these orders could not expect the protection of this government.

Lansing declared that the Lualaba case can not be settled until the armed ship decree is disposed of, and that this settlement hinges upon the missing appendices. Gerard probably will be asked how these were forwarded.

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CLOSE DEAL FOR QUEEN OF BRONZE

Big Producer at Waldo Has Been Taken Over by Com- pany Formed From Mem- bers of Twohy Bros. Co.

The negotiations which have been in progress for several weeks past leading to the transfer of the Queen of Bronze copper mine from the Tutt estate to a new company have been finally closed, and the new owners are in charge of the property. The terms of the sale are not yet made public, but the mine is of proven value and its sale represents a transaction running into large figures. The purchasers include members from the firm of the Twohy Brothers company and friends who have been interested in the mine. John Hampshire of the company having been largely instrumental in the organization of the company for the purchase of the mine. Judge Twohy and the younger members of the firm are also stockholders in the new organization.

In taking charge of the Queen of Bronze and the other adjoining claims that form the group, the company has engaged Roy Clark, of Spokane, a well known mining engineer, to direct its operation, and he is now on the ground. It is proposed by the new people to operate the mine upon an extensive scale, and preparations are now being made for the placing of a force of men at work.

For the past two years the Queen of Bronze has been under lease from the Tutt estate to Tucker & James, the lessees now being engaged in hauling ore from the mine to the terminus of the new railroad at Waters creek. Tucker & James now have some 50 tons of ore already mined, and they will complete the hauling and shipment of this.

The Queen of Bronze has a large amount of development work, and has been the heaviest producer in the Waldo district. It has well defined bodies of high-grade ore, that hauled by wagon and truck giving from 15 to 25 per cent of copper as well as values in gold. For years the mine has produced ore that would stand the long haul of 40 miles by wagon to Grants Pass, and then rail shipment to the smelters at Kennett, Cal., and Tacoma. With the completion of the railroad now being built by the Twohy company the mine can stand development upon a most extensive scale for its ores can then be loaded directly upon the cars and the ores of lower grade can also be shipped.

GERMAN MAJOR FROM FRISCO AWARDED IRON CROSS

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—The Iron Cross of the First Class has been awarded to Baron Henry von Schroeder, formerly of this city, now a German major, according to word received here today.

6 MINERS KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION

Kempton, Maryland, Feb. 29.—Six miners are reported to have been killed in an explosion in the Davis mine.

A number of persons was injured and 33 are reported still entombed. Twenty-six unhurt men brought out six bodies following a terrific dust explosion.